

## About the Nevada State Contractors Board

- The NSCB has the information you need about a contractor's license, bond and worker's compensation insurance
- The NSCB has free consumer publications and complaint forms
- Many helpful consumer documents are available in three convenient ways:

### Web

[www.nscb.state.nv.us](http://www.nscb.state.nv.us)

### Phone

(775) 688-1150 (Reno)

(702) 486-1110 (Las Vegas)

### Mail

Nevada State Contractors Board

9670 Gateway Drive, Suite 100  
Reno, NV 89521

or

2310 Corporate Circle, Suite 200,  
Henderson, NV 89074



**Get free information from the  
Nevada State Contractors  
Board before you:**

- Hire a Contractor
- Sign a Contract
- Pay for Work and Repairs

## Nevada State Contractors Board

### Reno

9670 Gateway Drive,  
Suite 100  
Reno, NV 89521

(775) 688-1141 phone  
(775) 688-1271 fax

### Henderson/Las Vegas

2310 Corporate Circle,  
Suite 200  
Henderson, NV 89074

(702) 486-1100 phone  
(702) 486-1190 fax

**[www.nscb.state.nv.us](http://www.nscb.state.nv.us)**

**NSCB SENIOR AWARENESS  
PROGRAM**

# A Senior's Guide to Hiring a Contractor

**Warning Signs of Unscrupulous  
Home Improvement Scams**

**775-688-1141 RENO  
702-486-1100 LAS VEGAS**

The seal of the Nevada State Contractors Board is circular. It features a central emblem with a mountain, a river, and a sun. The words "THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF NEVADA" are inscribed around the top inner edge, and "STATE CONTRACTORS BOARD" is inscribed around the bottom inner edge.



## Before You Hire a Contractor

- ◆ Read the *Homeowner's Bill of Rights*, available online at [www.nscb.state.nv.us](http://www.nscb.state.nv.us) or obtain a copy by calling (775) 688-1141 or (702) 486-1100.
- ◆ Take your time before you make a decision about hiring a contractor.
- ◆ Get at least three bids
- ◆ Check references
- ◆ Hire only licensed contractors. Anyone performing home improvement work must be licensed by the Nevada State Contractors Board
- ◆ Get the contractor's license number and verify it online at [www.nscb.state.nv.us](http://www.nscb.state.nv.us) or by calling (775) 688-1141 or (702) 486-1100.

### Things to Know About the Contract

- ◆ Get your contract in writing and don't sign anything until you understand the terms.
- ◆ You may want a friend, relative or legal counsel to review the contract before you sign it.
- ◆ Include in your contract specific description of work to be done, materials to be used, total cost of the project, and start and completion dates.



## The Warning Signs of Unscrupulous Contractor Scams. . .

### Door-to-Door Solicitations

Someone comes to your door offering to fix your roof, re-tile your floor or re-landscape your yard for a reduced price. Once payment is made, little or no work is done and the project is abandoned.

### Verbal Agreements

A contractor says that a written contract is unnecessary and promises to do the job with a verbal agreement. He or she takes advantage of the situation to perform shoddy work or no work at all.

### High Pressure Sales

An unscrupulous contractor pushes for an immediate decision about work, which makes it impossible for you to get competitive bids, check his license or review references.

### Demand for Cash

A contractor demands cash payments, or offers to drive you to the bank to withdraw funds. With money in hand, he or she takes the money and runs.

### Scare Tactics

A deceitful contractor offers to perform a free inspection, then claims that bad wiring, bad plumbing or a leaky roof put you in peril. He or she pressures you to agree to over-priced work.

### Large Down Payments

A dishonest contractor demands a large down payment to cover supplies and pay workers.

On most types of contracts, there is no set amount for a down payment. However, it is a good rule of thumb not to let the payments get ahead of the work.



### Things You Should Know About Payments

- ◆ Don't pay cash.
- ◆ Include a payment schedule in your written contract.
- ◆ Don't let the payments get ahead of the work.
- ◆ If you have questions, call the Nevada State Contractors Board.
- ◆ Pay by check.
- ◆ Obtain receipts for payments.

**Don't be a Victim of Unscrupulous or Unlicensed Contractors!**